



# MARSHAL MATTERS OCTOBER 2021 EDITION

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**Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez**

Fall is the season of change not only in the weather, but also as time we turn our clocks back. The time change serves as a bi-annual reminder to test your smoke and CO alarms and is also a good time to review and practice your families fire escape plan. We see an increase in fires during the cold weather months and having working smoke alarms in our homes is very important as the time you have to escape a fire can be as little as 3 minutes.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports between 2014-2018, almost three out of every five home fire deaths in the U.S. resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or non-working smoke alarms. The death rate per 1,000 reported home fires was more than twice as high in homes that did not have any working smoke alarms compared to the rate in homes with working smoke alarms. In fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, two of every five of the smoke alarms had missing or disconnected batteries. Dead batteries caused one-quarter (26%) of the smoke alarm failures. In Illinois, 80% of smoke alarms being replaced aren't working. By replacing alarms that have missing batteries or ones that are either expired or broken with new ten-year sealed detectors, this will help to reduce residential fire deaths across the state. Spend a few minutes and make sure everyone in your home knows what to do and where to go if a fire was to break out. This quick family meeting could help prevent a tragedy from occurring.

The holiday season kicks off this month, and for many, this means the kitchen will become a busy place preparing some of your favorite dishes. Thanksgiving is the leading day for home fires involving cooking equipment, with more than 3 times the average number occurring. Unattended cooking is a contributing factor in 31% of home fires related to cooking equipment, 53% of the associated deaths and 44% of the associated injuries.

Set a timer or other reminders to check on anything cooking in the oven. Talk to kids about staying a safe distance away from the stove. We recommend creating a 3-foot kid-free zone around any areas where you are cooking. If you have a small cooking fire and decide to fight the fire, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turn off the burner. NEVER use water to try and put out a grease fire. If a fire breaks out in your oven, turn off the heat and keep the door closed. When in doubt about fighting a small fire, just get out! Once you are out, call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number.

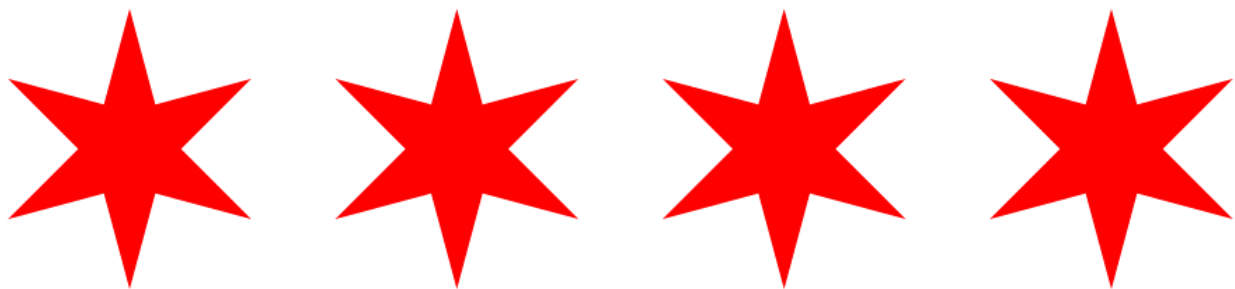
I want to personally wish everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving! Make sure you continue to follow the latest guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health as COVID-19 is still here. We will beat this if we continue to work together to keep everyone healthy.

## Chicago Fire Department LODD- Michael Pickering



*Chicago Firefighter/EMT Michael Pickering succumbed to complications from COVID-19 on October 11th. Pickering served with the Chicago Fire Department for 18 years and worked on Engine 29 stationed in the Bridgeport neighborhood.*

*Rest easy brother, we will take it from here!*





## Employee Spotlight



# Bernie Arends

## Technical Services

**Where are you originally from?** Lincolnwood, IL (on the north border of Chicago)

**Tell us about your family?** Kids, Significant other.....Have a son (Joe) and daughter (Alicia), and four grandkids

**Favorite food(s)?** Sushi

**Hobbies?** Carpentry, furniture restoration, biking

**What's your favorite movie or book?** Was James Bond, until they killed him off in the latest movie

**When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers?** WFMT  
Classical music: Mozart, Bach, Vivaldi, Handel

**What did you want to be when you were a kid?** A Naval aviator and combat pilot

**What's your favorite part of the job?** Handling calls and helping people with their questions

**What's something unique about you?** Retired Navy Captain, 30 years in Intelligence (Active duty during Viet Nam and Navy Reserves), 45 years in the Fire Service and Fire Protection related industries

**Where is your favorite place to vacation?** Anywhere near an ocean

**Where is your bucket list destination?** Europe – France, Italy, Germany, England

## State of Illinois CRR Conference



*The first State of Illinois Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Conference was held in Springfield on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Crowne Plaza. The OFSM partnered with the Chicago Fire Department to host the event which brought in speakers from across the country and the state. These speakers provided information related to CRR and what is working in their communities.*

*Plans are in the works for future conferences to be held in a couple different locations in the state. Stay tuned for news on when and where the next conference will be held.*

*Attendees all received the NFPA 1300 book that is the Standard on Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development.*

*The OSFM thanks the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Initiative's Tom Lia and Jim Harmening for their help with registration and creating of promotional flyers for the event.*



## Illinois Fire Department COVID Relief Grant

*The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) announced the recipients of the one-time Illinois Fire Department COVID-19 Relief Grant. A total of 36 Illinois Fire Departments will receive over \$316,000 thousand dollars in funding. Under this one-time grant opportunity, eligible Illinois fire departments could receive up to \$15,000 in order to make up for lost donation revenues stemming from their inability to host local fundraising events during the periods of quarantines in 2020. These fundraising events include pancake breakfasts and spaghetti dinners, and pay for necessities like fuel for fire trucks, utilities, and insurance.*

*The OSFM collaborated with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) who helped assemble a special committee to review the grant applications utilizing a blind review needs-based analysis. This grant is financed through the Illinois Fire Prevention Fund, a non-general revenue fund that is supported primarily by a 1% assessment of the gross fire risk premium receipts of all insurance companies operating in the state.*

### **Adams:**

*Clayton Fire Protection District: \$7,952*

*Ursa Fire Protection District: \$1,939*

*Loraine Fire Protection District: \$8,300*

### **Bureau:**

*Cherry Fire Protection District: \$6,392*

### **Clinton:**

*Wheatfield Fire Protection District: \$8,760*

*Beckmeyer-Wade Fire Protection District: \$15,000*

*Hoffman Fire Protection District: \$2,904*

*Germantown Rural Fire Protection District:  
\$15,000*

### **Coles:**

*Wabash Fire Protection District: \$13,936*

### **Fayette:**

*Brownstown Fire Protection District: \$9,655*

### **Franklin:**

*Coello Volunteer Fire Department: \$10,651*

*Ziegler Fire Department: \$9,028*

### **Fulton:**

*Smithfield Fire Protection District: \$13,150*

### **Gallatin:**

*Shawneetown Fire Department: \$11,030*

### **Jackson:**

*Dowell Fire Department: \$10,586*

*Vergennes Fire Department: \$910*

### **Jo Daviess:**

*Apple River Fire Protection District:  
\$12,686*

### **Madison:**

*Worden Fire Protection District: \$11,164*

### **Marion:**

*Odin Fire Protection District: \$10,049*

### **Mason:**

*Havana Rural Fire Protection District:  
\$4,476*

**Illinois Fire Department COVID Relief Grant****McDonough:**

*New Salem Fire Protection District: \$2,421*

*Emmet-Chalmers Fire Protection District:  
\$11,355*

**Montgomery:**

*Witt Volunteer Fire Department: \$15,000*

**Perry:**

*Pickneyville Fire Department: \$4,388*

**Pike:**

*Hull-Kinderhook Fire Department: \$7,600*

**Pulaski:**

*Olmstead Fire Department: \$6,451*

**Randolph:**

*Prairie du Rocher Community Fire Department:  
\$15,000*

*Tilden Fire Department: \$7,160*

**St. Clair:**

*St. Libory Volunteer Fire Company: \$15,000*

*Camp Jackson Fire Department: \$1,586*

*Fairmount City Fire Department: \$8,540*

*Lebanon-Emerald Mound Fire Department:  
\$15,000*

**Tazewell:**

*Marquette Heights Fire Department: \$10,773*

**Union:**

*Ware/Wolf Lake Fire Protection District:  
\$1,976*

**White:**

*Little Wabash Fire Protection District: \$3,986*

**Williamson:**

*Hurst Fire Department: \$6,260*





## Chicago Arson K9 Event



The Chicago Fire Department and State Farm hosted a media event at the Quinn Fire Academy introducing the OSFM's two newest Accelerant Detection Canines GG and Phantom to the media. GG works with Special Agent Kushner and Phantom work with Special Agent Kuban in the Chicagoland area.

Arson Special Agent Mitch Kushner was also recognized for his 29 years of service making him the longest serving arson canine handler in the world!

To learn more about our accelerant detection canines visit:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/About/Divisions/Arson/Pages/Arson-Canine.aspx>



Left to Right: FM Perez, SA Kushner, SA Hacker, SA Ooms and SA Kuban

Bottom Left to Right: Arson Canine GG and Arson Canine Phantom





**Fire Prevention Week**

*Governor JB Pritzker proclaimed October 3rd-9th as Fire Prevention Week in Illinois to encourage residents to “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety” and make sure they have working smoke alarms in their homes.*

*The OFSM encourages everyone to test your smoke and CO alarms monthly and check the expiration dates on all alarms. Make sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the alarms and knows how to respond. To learn the sounds of your specific smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, check the manufacturer’s instructions that came in the box, or search the brand and model online. “It’s plain and simple, working smoke and CO alarms save lives!”*

*The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends these tips to keep in mind to “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety”*

- *A continuous set of three loud beeps—beep, beep, beep—means smoke or fire. Get out, call 9-1-1, and stay out.*
- *A single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.*
- *All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.*
- *Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.*
- *Make sure your smoke and CO alarms meet the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.*

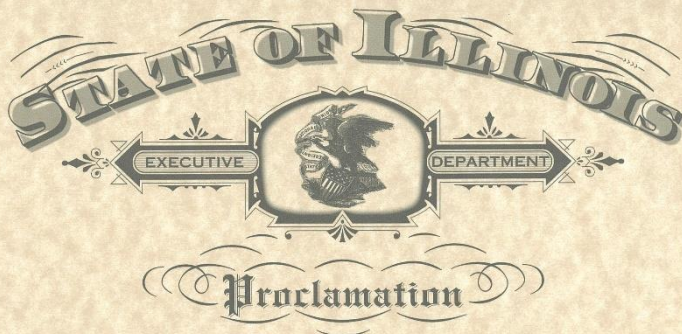
*For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and fire prevention in general, visit [www.fpw.org](http://www.fpw.org).*



## Fire Prevention Week



South Wheatland FPD Chief Tom Williams poses with the proclamation from Governor JB Pritzker proclaiming Oct 3-9 as Fire Prevention Week.



*WHEREAS*, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half; and,

*WHEREAS*, Illinois residents should be sure everyone in the home knows their alarm's sound and how to respond; and,

*WHEREAS*, Illinois residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and,

*WHEREAS*, Illinois residents will make sure their smoke and CO alarms meet the needs of all their family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities; and,

*WHEREAS*, Illinois first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and,

*WHEREAS*, Illinois residents who are responsive to public education measures are better able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and,

*WHEREAS*, the 2021 Fire Prevention Week™ theme, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety™," effectively serves to remind us it is important to learn the different sounds of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms;

*THEREFORE*, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 3-9, 2021, as **Fire Prevention Week** throughout this state, and I urge all the people of Illinois to "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety™" for Fire Prevention Week 2021 and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Illinois' fire and emergency services.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



*Dee Dee White*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,*  
this FIRST day of OCTOBER, in  
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and  
TWENTY-ONE, and of the State of Illinois,  
two hundred and THIRD.

*JB Pritzker*  
GOVERNOR



Members from the 14 Illinois Fire Service organizations posed with the proclamation from Governor JB Pritzker commemorating Fire Prevention Week.

Hear a chirp, make a change!  
A CHIRPING ALARM means the  
battery, or the entire alarm,  
must be replaced.



Learn the sounds of fire safety at [fpw.org](http://fpw.org).



## Great Chicago Fire 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



FM Perez with Chicago Fire Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt



Left to Right: President/CEO Chicago History Museum Donald Lassere, FM Perez and Exhibition Curator Julius Jones

This year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire and Peshtigo, Wisconsin fires. Fire Marshal Perez attended an event commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire at the Chicago History Museum. The Exhibition Curator Julius Jones did a great job showcasing the historical event. Mrs. O'Leary's cow "Daisy" is innocent of the false accusation of her kicking over the lantern that was legend of starting the fire.

The Great Chicago Fire caused \$200 million in property damage, killed 300 people and left 100,000 homeless.

The Peshtigo, Wisconsin fire is one that is overshadowed by the Great Chicago Fire by started on the same day. This was the most devastating forest fire in American history that swept through northeast Wisconsin, claiming 1200+ lives. It scorched 1.2 to 1.5 million acres, although it skipped over the waters of Green Bay to burn parts of Door and Kewaunee counties. The damage estimate was at \$169 million, which is about the same as for the Chicago Fire.

The fire also burned 16 other towns, but the damage in Peshtigo was the worst. The city was gone in an hour. In Peshtigo alone, 800 lives were lost.





## IFSA Luncheon



*OSFM PIO JC Fultz provided the OSFM's agency update*

*Fire Marshal Perez provided opening remarks at the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance's 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire Prevention Week Luncheon in Woodridge. Members from the 14 different Illinois Fire Service organizations were given the opportunity to provide updates about their agencies.*

*The event also highlights and honors those who have gone above and beyond in fire safety and burn prevention, as each year the IFSA receives nominations and presents awards for various categories*



**Illinois  
Fire  
Safety  
Alliance**

## IAAI Conference



*The International Association of Arson Investigators Illinois Chapter held their annual Training Conference in East Peoria. The conference had a few special guests who traveled from South America. Pictured above are members from the Ecuador who attended the conference to learn techniques that are used in the U.S. to help aid them in their investigations.*

*OSFM Special Agent Bobby Jo Brown was honored with a Distinguished Team Award for his work on an investigation.*



## First Responder's Day

*Congress designated October 28th as National First Responders Day in 2017. The resolution honors the firefighters, police officers, EMTs, and all those who are first on the scene in stressful situations.*

*The Illinois Senate has declared October 28, 2021 as First Responders Day in to recognize the efforts of Illinois' first responders, remember those we have lost, and thank those who continue to serve the citizens of Illinois.*

*The OSFM thanks all first responders for their dedication to serving and protecting the members of their communities and citizens of Illinois.*





## CRR Statewide Task Force

### Illinois CRR Stakeholder Taskforce

*Promote the importance of Risk Reduction in Illinois by inspiring community ownership and providing coordinated resources*

**November 4, 2021**

#### **Title: Illinois Community Risk Reduction – Why the Six Steps are Important**



On Friday, October 22, 2021, the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Chicago Fire Department hosted a successful one-day Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Conference in Springfield, IL. Presentations from national, state, county and community CRR experts provided insight to best practices and the fundamentals of successful implementation of the process. Throughout the day, a common theme became, "CRR is not just another name for Public Education or Fire Prevention". Unfortunately, this common misconception has evolved to the extent that some departments have decided to change the name of their Fire Prevention Division to Community Risk Reduction Division. While it is encouraging that departments are beginning to embrace CRR as part of their culture, it is equally important that everyone begins to more fully understand what CRR really means. Public education and fire prevention are essential components to the process, but these alone will not effectively mitigate all of a community's risks on their own.

As presented previously, Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is a process to identify and prioritize local **risks**, followed by the integrated and strategic investment of resources (emergency response and prevention) to **reduce** their occurrence and impact. (Vision 20/20). At its most efficient, the process uses a six-step approach towards development. The six steps, in order, are to: 1) Identify Risks, 2) Prioritize Risks, 3) Develop Strategies and Tactics to Mitigate Risks, 4) Prepare the CRR Plan, 5) Implement the Plan, and 6) Monitor, Evaluate and Modify the Plan.

#### **Overview of The Six Steps to CRR**

##### **Step 1 – Identify the Risks**

This step includes a comprehensive assessment of fire department incident data, identification and prioritization of fire and EMS calls, and development of a community profile that includes demographic data, partners, risk trends, geographic location of calls and risks, high risk populations, causal factors, target hazards, and a hazard analysis. This sounds like an overwhelming task, but your department is probably already tracking much of this data. Many resources are now available to assist you in identifying the risks for your community.

##### **Step 2 – Prioritize the Risks**

Analyze the likelihood of the risks, the severity, consequences, and impact of the risks, and the occupancy vulnerability of *target hazards* (properties where there is a great potential for loss of life or property loss if a fire erupts, such as hospitals, schools,

## CRR Statewide Task Force

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*Promote the importance of Risk Reduction in Illinois by inspiring community ownership and providing coordinated resources*

nursing homes, shopping centers, theaters). An essential consideration for this step is to define an acceptable level of risk. CRR takes a closer look at the risks, attempts to break them into identifiable causes, and put a strategy into place to unlock the issues and put them back together in a safer condition through prevention and mitigation.

#### Step 3 – Develop Strategies and Tactics to Mitigate the Risks

The Five E's – education, engineering, enforcement, economic incentives, and emergency response – continue to provide the basic strategies for risk reduction. All risks should be examined through the lens of *each* of these strategies. Risks that would benefit by the application of more than one strategy should be approached by a systematic combination of each of these strategies for the best outcome.

#### Step 4 – Prepare the CRR Program

The risks have been identified and prioritized, and the strategies selected. Now it is time to prepare the plan. Examine each strategy to begin outlining goals, benchmarks and timeframes. Before implementing the plan, review all work to ensure the plan makes sense, is feasible for the community, and expectations are clear for all involved.

#### Step 5 – Implement the CRR Plan

Within the Six Steps of CRR, there are six steps of implementation. Following these steps in order provides a roadmap for logical and successful implementation, along with the most efficient use of resources. These six steps are: 1) identify and allocate needed resources; 2) Prepare a timeline with milestones; 3) Assign responsibilities; 4) Communicate goals and expectations; 5) Monitor progress, and 6) Make adjustments as necessary.

#### Step 6 – Monitor, Evaluate, and Modify the Plan

Several forms of evaluation will be used in the CRR model. Members of the planning team will provide progress reports from their areas of activity. The leader will also be providing updates and progress reports to the administration and partners. A summative annual report should be provided for all long-term projects. It is important to remember that evaluation is an ongoing process that begins with the first step – analyzing data in Step 1 is a form of evaluation. Reports and adjustments are made throughout the CRR process to maintain steady progress toward identified goals and to avoid unpleasant surprises.

## CRR Statewide Task Force

### Illinois CRR Stakeholder Taskforce

*Promote the importance of Risk Reduction in Illinois by inspiring community ownership and providing coordinated resources*



The Six Steps of CRR provide an easy-to-use format to ensure a logical and sustainable process resulting in the best use of resources to deliver measurable outcomes.

You can find more information, along with free and downloadable CRR planning guides, at Vision 20/20's website [www.strategicfire.org](http://www.strategicfire.org).

We invite you to contact our organization at [info@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:info@illinoisfirechiefs.org) for resources and CRR updates. We welcome your questions, requests, and suggestions.





## IFSI Minute

### AN UPDATE FROM THE ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

November is here! And, like many, the IFSI Team is asking where did the month of October go to? The 2021 fall training season has been productive and successful, and we look forward to closing out the year with more deliveries of top-quality, realistic, and engaging training opportunities.



#### 99<sup>th</sup> Basic Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Academy

IFSI was proud to host a Candidate Commencement for the 2021 Fall Academy class on Friday, October 29 in Champaign. Fifty students successfully completed the 7-week resident program, representing 26 departments from across the States of Illinois and Iowa. We congratulate the graduates on their hard work and look forward to seeing them in future IFSI classes.



#### 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Fire School

IFSI will host the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Fire School January 22-23 in Champaign. This event will offer nine unique course options, including live fire, hands-on and classroom training opportunities. Registration opens in December for this elite training event.

We continue to be grateful for your support in the fulfillment of our Mission: *Helping Firefighters Do Their Work Through Training, Education, Information, and Research.*

#WeAreIFSI



## Illinois Fire Chiefs Conference



*The 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Conference was held in Peoria October 17-20<sup>th</sup>. Pictured above, Fire Marshal Perez was swearing in the new members of the board. Chief John Kachanuk of the Havana Fire Department takes over as President.*

*OSFM's Bob Wetzel provided a presentation for members in attendance on where to find items on the OSFM's website.*

*A complete list of members on the board can be found by visiting:  
<https://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/who-we-are/current-board/>*





## Shake Out Earthquake Drill



The OSFM joined over 1.8 million other people by participating in the Great Central Region ShakeOut earthquake drill. International ShakeOut Day is always the third Thursday of October (this year: October 21) The OSFM participates each year to help prepare staff in the event an earthquake was to occur. OSFM staff always have a few out takes (funny pictures) during these drills.

Learn how you can prepare and participate by visiting:

<https://www.shakeout.org/>





## Daylight Saving Time Ends



*The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) reminds Illinoisans to test, check expirations dates and replace the batteries in their smoke alarms as daylight saving time ends this weekend and they turn their clocks back. In 2020, there were 83 residential fire deaths in Illinois, with most of those deaths occurring in homes without working smoke alarms.*

*The OSFM recommends testing smoke alarms once a month, but the time change serves as a built-in reminder to test, inspect and replace nonoperational or expired smoke alarms, along with replacing batteries in smoke alarms. While you are changing the clocks in your homes, hit the test button on smoke alarms. Time is everything when it comes to escaping a home fire, and a working smoke alarm will increase your chances of escaping if a fire was to break out.*

*The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports between 2012-2016, almost three out of every five home fire deaths in the U.S. resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or non-working smoke alarms. In fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, more than two of every five of the smoke alarms had missing or disconnected batteries. Dead batteries accounted for 25% of smoke alarm failures. In Illinois, 79% of smoke alarms being replaced aren't working. By replacing alarms that have missing batteries or ones that are either expired or broken with new ten-year sealed detectors, this will help to reduce residential fire deaths across the state.*

*A 2017 Illinois law required ten-year sealed smoke alarms be installed in all homes built before 1988 or that do not have hardwired smoke detectors by January 1, 2023.*



## "Be Alarmed" Smoke Alarm Events

The OSFM traveled to several different communities in October raising awareness about the importance of having working smoke alarms in home with our partners at the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance. The OSFM and IFSA stopped in Franklin Park, Belleville and Galesburg during the month of October.

"Be Alarmed!" is a fire safety education and smoke alarm installation program administered cooperatively between the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM). The program distributes fire safety education materials and 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms to fire departments in the state of Illinois. The fire departments then deliver the education while installing smoke alarms in at-risk homes within their communities. Both the educational materials and smoke alarms are provided at no cost as a result of funding from both the IFSA and OSFM. Learn more by visiting: <https://www.ifsa.org/programs/alarms>





## OSFM DEI

OSFM DEI efforts continued throughout the month of October as we continued to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15th); LGBT History Month; National Disability Month; Global Diversity Awareness Month; National Coming Out Day (October 11th); National Indigenous Peoples Day (October 11th); Eid Milad un-Nabi (October 18th -19th) (Islamic holiday commemorating birthday of Islam prophet Muhammad)(sun up to sun down) ; Mawlid Al-Nabi, (October 19th) (observance of the birthday Islam prophet Muhammad); Sikh Holy Day (October 20th ) (celebration of spiritual guide Sri Guru Granth Sahib); International Pronouns Day (October 20th); and Latinx Women's Equal Pay Day (October 29th ). We also celebrated feast observances related to the Baha'i faith (October 15th).

The DEI Working Group (employee peer to peer group) met on October 7, 2021. Meeting agenda items included welcoming new member Katherine Nunes to the group, updates relating to agency DEI outreach efforts, our DEI Glossary project, and our agency DEI mission statement. The group had a great discussion about why DEI remains an important subject for our agency. The next group meeting is scheduled for: November 18, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Any OSFM staff member who desires to serve on the working group (or who would simply like to attend a meeting as a guest) should contact Deputy Director Armstead or HR Director Schrage.

The State Fire Marshal continued to receive positive feedback from members of the Illinois fire service regarding our DEI efforts including the recently published fall 2021 edition of our DEI External Partner Outreach document. This document contains a treasure trove of DEI centric information and resources. Here is a link to it:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/SFMDocuments/Documents/OSFM%20DEI%20External%20Outreach%20Packet%20Fall%202021%20Edition.pdf>

At the request of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts, Deputy Director Armstead submitted a DEI article for publication in their Fire Call magazine. Look for it in November.

We were very pleased to see that a DEI presentation was included in the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association's (IFCA) October annual meeting. We remain very encouraged by the great progress that the IFCA is making with respect to DEI centric subject matter. Our agency is grateful to have has a seat on their DEI committee.

Please reach out to us if you are one of our fire service partners and need assistance with starting your own DEI initiative.

Diversity = Acceptance of all

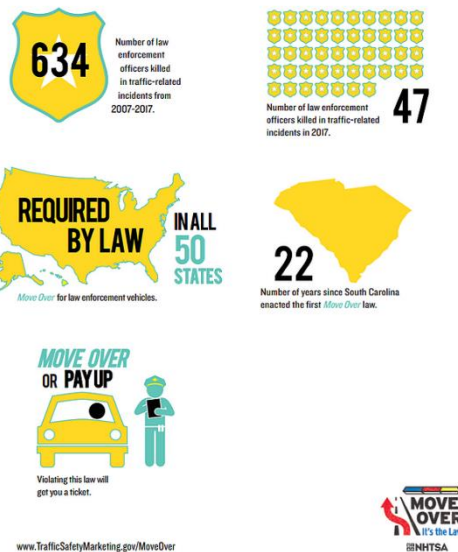
Equity = Access for all

Inclusion = Meaningful participation by all





## National Move Over Day



National Move Over Day, the third Saturday of every October, is an event when first responders, roadway workers, and communities across the United States promote awareness... More. The Move Over Law is a traffic law currently mandatory in all 50 states.

In Illinois, the move over law is known as Scott's Law and is intended to protect emergency personnel from motorists at emergency scenes and is named after Chicago Fire Lieutenant Scott Gillen who was struck and killed Dec. 23, 2000 while responding to a traffic accident.

Penalties for violating Scott's Law include:

A fine of not more than \$10,000.00;  
suspension of driving privileges for a period of up to a year but not less than 90 days for damaging another person's property;  
suspension of driving privileges for a period of not less than 180 days but no more than two years for injuring another person; a two-year suspension of driving privileges for causing the death of another person.



## Cooking Safety

# Cooking Safety

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

### "COOK WITH CAUTION"

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

### If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

### If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.



### Cooking and Kids

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 metre) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

### FACTS

- ❗ The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ❗ Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



[nfpa.org/education](https://nfpa.org/education) ©NFPA 2018



## Cooking Safety

# Prevent a Turkey Fryer Fire



Did you know?

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires.

When you fry foods, you increase the risk of a cooking fire.

Keep in mind the potential dangers of deep frying a turkey:

- ▶ Turkey fryers can easily tip over spilling hot oil across a large area. Use your turkey fryer only outdoors on a sturdy, level surface well away from things that can burn. Make sure to have a “3-foot kid- and pet-free zone” around your turkey fryer to protect against burn injuries.
- ▶ An overfilled cooking pot will cause oil to spill over when the turkey is placed inside. Determine the correct amount of oil needed by first placing the turkey in the pot with water.
- ▶ A partially frozen turkey will cause hot oil to splatter. Make sure your turkey is completely thawed before you fry it.
- ▶ Turkey fryers can easily overheat and start a fire. Check the temperature often with a cooking thermometer so the oil won't overheat.
- ▶ The pot, lid and handles of a turkey fryer can get dangerously hot and cause burn injuries. Use long cooking gloves that protect hands and arms when you handle these items.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit

**[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)**



## Shout Outs/Kudos



*OSFM Fire Prevention Inspector Dan Bauer retired after 18 years working with the OSFM. Fire Marshal Perez presented Dan with a plaque that has his badge attached and a certificate recognizing his years of service. Dan also received a Life Safety Award this year during the Medal of Honor Ceremony.*

*Enjoy retirement Dan.....you deserve it!*



*Arson Special Agent Greg Vespa:*

*I want to express our sincere appreciation for Special Agent Greg Vespa and his contribution to O'Fallon's Night to Unite event on October 5, 2021. Special Agent Vespa and his partner Ross dedicated their time and effort to provide our citizens with a K9 demonstration for the sixth year in a row.*

*Special Agent Vespa and Ross were one of the major highlights of the event and their demonstration added a great educational element.*

*He has an obvious dedication to his office and community and his support helped make this a great event!*


*Chief Eric Van Hook  
O'Fallon Director of Public Safety*

*A potential Carbon Monoxide life safety incident was avoided at an apartment building located at 2308 Century Point Lane in Glendale Heights. Inspector Nick Gustafson alerted his Fire Department contact regarding the elevated readings in the boiler room. The fire department responded along with building department representatives. Nicor was called to shut off gas. Way to go Nick!*

**YOU ROCK**





## Kids' Corner



### Sparky's Recipes

# COOKING with KIDS

**I love cooking.** When I am not teaching kids about fire safety, you can usually find me in the kitchen. Letting kids help in the kitchen is a great way to teach them about cooking safety and the importance of eating healthy. Here are some of my favorite recipes. Before you begin, make sure to read my **Kids in the Kitchen** tips. These tips can help you figure out what you're old enough to do on your own — and when it's time to ask a grown-up for help.  

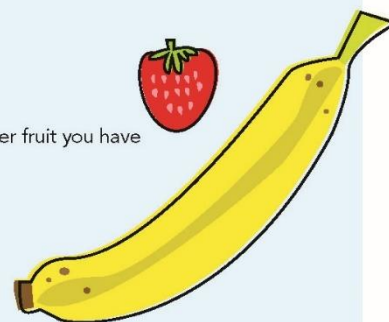
### Sparky's "Bark" fait (Parfait) This makes 4.

#### Ingredients:

- 2 cups vanilla yogurt (I used Greek yogurt)
- 2 cups your favorite granola
- 2 cups fresh berries (raspberries, blueberries, strawberries (sliced) or any other fruit you have like: bananas, peaches or mangos, peeled and sliced
- 4 tablespoons honey (optional)

#### Directions:

1. Line up 4 tall glasses, or whatever you would like to put your parfait in.
2. Spoon 2 tablespoons of yogurt into each glass.
3. Spoon 2 tablespoons of granola over the yogurt.
4. Then, add 2 tablespoons of fruit.
5. Keep repeating these steps until your glass is full. You can add a little bit of honey here and there, to taste.



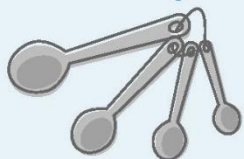
### Cinnamon-sugar chips This makes 8 dozen.

#### Ingredients:

- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 12 flour tortillas (10" in diameter)

#### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375°.
2. Stir together butter, sugar, and cinnamon in a small bowl.
3. Brush tortillas with butter mixture
4. Using a butter knife, or a cookie cutter, cut each tortilla into 8 wedges.
5. Put wedges in a single layer on a baking sheet.
6. Bake until crispy (about 10 to 12 minutes).



Make sure you let the chips cool on a wire rack before you eat them. Yum!

CHECK OUT **SPARKY.ORG** FOR MORE FUN!

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## Kids' Corner

### Sparky's Recipes

# COOKING with KIDS

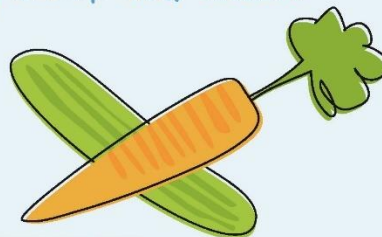
## Sparky's Sushi Sandwiches (Say that 3x fast!) This makes 8.

### Ingredients:

- 2 slices of whole wheat bread
- 3 tablespoons cream cheese
- 1-½ tablespoon of sour cream
- Carrots, sliced thin
- Cucumbers, sliced thin

### Directions:

1. Take a rolling pin and flatten 2 slices of bread.
2. Mix together 3 tablespoons cream cheese and 1-½ tablespoons sour cream.
3. Using a butter knife, spread your mixture on your slices of bread.
4. Lay 2 carrot and 2 cucumber sticks (6" long) at the bottom of each slice of bread, let them hang over edges.
5. Roll up the bread, pressing gently to seal.
6. Cut each roll in four equal pieces.



## Slippery Snail Snack



### Ingredients:

- 1 Granny Smith apple
- Approx. 3" length of celery stalk
- 2 raisins
- 2 thin strips of carrot
- Peanut butter

### Equipment:

- 1 sealable plastic storage bag
- Kitchen knife

### Directions:

1. Cut a thin vertical slice from the side of your apple (this will be the snail's body).
2. Cut a celery stick that is about 1" longer than the width of the apple slice.
3. Fill the inside of the celery stick with peanut butter, and put aside..
4. Now put some peanut butter in the plastic bag and snip just the corner off.
5. Lay your apple slice down on a flat surface. Gently squeezing your plastic bag of peanut butter, add a swirl on one side.
6. Add the "raisin" eyes to one end of the celery (on the peanut butter). Add the thin strips of carrots for antennae.
7. Now carefully attach the apple slice onto the celery stalk.



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